

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in the above-identified application, and claims 3, 10, 12, and 16 were withdrawn from consideration. Claims 11 and 13 were rejected, claims 14 and 15 were objected to, and claims 1, 2, 4, and 9 were allowed. With this Amendment, no claims were amended, added or cancelled. Accordingly, claims 1-2, 4-9, 11, and 13-15 are at issue.

I. Double Patenting Rejection of Claims

Claims 11 and 13 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims of U.S. Patent No. 6,507,859. In response to this objection, Applicants are submitting a "Terminal Disclaimer." Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

II. Objection To Claims

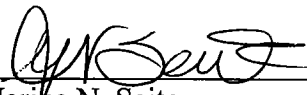
Claims 14 and 15 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have not amended these claims, but respectfully submit that these claims are allowable by virtue of their dependency from claim 13. Accordingly, Applicants submit that this objection has been obviated, and respectfully request its withdrawal.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that all claims are clearly allowable over the cited prior art, and respectfully requests early and favorable notification to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 
Marina N. Saito
Registration No. 42,121
SONNENSCHNEIN NATH & ROSENTHAL LLP
P.O. Box 061080
Wacker Drive Station, Sears Tower
Chicago, Illinois 60606-1080
(312) 876-8000